

CONFIDENTIAL**INSPECTOR GENERAL**

76-0331

13 February 1976

Executive Registry

76-6891

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Warner

SUBJECT : CA Authorizations

1. As you may know, I got deeply involved at one time (at least) in the past, considering the Agency's track record in the world of what has come to be known as "Covert Action." I don't have much of the material now, but I do have some recollections, with which I will burden you briefly in hopes some of it is pertinent.

2. It is clear that during the hearings leading to the 1947 Act covert action was not a specified responsibility to be assumed by CIA. Nor did the Act specify "espionage" although that clearly was considered, being omitted from the Act as a considered judgment that such provisions should not be explicit. Secretary of Defense Forrestal, almost as soon as CIA assumed its new identity, recommended to President Truman that CIA be given the CA role, which people referred to variously (depending on what it was) as PP, PM, etc. No one flinched--even so shortly after the hearings--at assigning this role to CIA.

3. Almost at once plans commenced for special authorizations for CIA to conduct business differently from other government departments and agencies, and there were hearings looking toward passage in 1948 of what became (because of delays) the 1949 CIA Act. Again, as with "espionage" in the earlier Act, no reference was made to "covert action." However, there was specific reference to types of activity that we now lump together into the catch-all phrase of "covert action." Attached is a short and informal memorandum by Walter Pforzheimer, with references to political action [] and special weaponry and sabotage devices that presumably were for use in what today comes under the rubric of "covert action." I don't think the term "covert action" was used in those days as an all-inclusive concept, but consideration was given to activities that now are included under the concept.

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4. Larry Houston's 6 April 1962 memorandum on "CIA Support of Cold-War Activities" notes that the 1947 Act did not consider this activity, but seemed to conclude that it was proper. I would like to suggest that, in addition, rather than focusing consideration on the 1947 Act proper emphasis should also be given the background of the 1949 Act.

[Redacted]
S. D. Breckinridge

Attachment: a/s

cc: [Redacted]

X1

DCI/DDCI
Routing Slip

Executive Registry
75-2373/1

IG

DFC
SDB

	ACTION	INFO.			ACTION	INFO.
1	DCI		11	LC		✓
2	DDCI		(12)	IG		✓
3	S. MC		13	Compt		
4	DDST		14	Asst/DCI		
5	DDI		15	AO/DCI		
6	DDM&S		16	Ex/Sac		
7	DDO	✓	17			
8	D. DCI/IC		18			
9	D. DCI/NIO		19			
10	GC	✓	20			

SUSPENSE

Date

Remarks

Be sure this
goes to our
CA justification
file

DCI/DDCI

Executive Registry

75-2373

16 May 1975

INSPECTOR GENERAL

75-1861 5-21

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Early Mention of CIA Covert Action Activities to the Congress

1. In 1948, the Congress considered legislation which was to become the CIA Act of 1949. This legislation originally passed the Senate in 1948 and was approved by the House Armed Services Committee. However, time did not permit its passage in the House in 1948, and the whole matter went over to 1949.

2. On 8 April 1948, the Director testified before the House Armed Services Committee in support of the legislation. A detailed brief, which is largely technical, was prepared for his use and became a part of his statement.

3. Section 3 of the CIA Act of 1949 (as in 1948) authorizes CIA to exercise certain authorities contained in the Armed Services Procurement Act of 1947. One such section provides that purchases and contracts for supplies and services may be negotiated by the Agency head without advertising if the public exigency will not admit of the delay incident to advertising. Several examples were given in support of this request. The first one listed is:

"Any possible action in connection with [redacted]"

4. Another subsection of Section 3 of the CIA Act of 1949 provides that purchases and contracts for supplies and services may be negotiated by the Agency head without advertising for personal or professional services. In his 1948 justification for this section, the Director said:

"This section is needed by the Agency to allow for the employment of individual specialists and professional services in connection with research into various types of special intelligence equipment, such as machine records, communications and explosives. ... As an additional example, one can point to contracts which the OSS made during the war with a few firms to develop certain types of explosives, fuses and limpets for agent weapons. This was not the type of material which could be developed in normal ordnance channels."

5. Again under Section 3 of the Act, which calls for personal service contracts with people and educational institutions, the Director said:

"This authority is requested in order that the facilities of certain educational institutions may be utilized in the preparation of basic unclassified research with respect to foreign countries and areas. Such subjects as [redacted] [Senator Schweiker's 'pet' subject.]"